

**REMARKS**

Early consideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 USC §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claims 31, 32, 35, 36, 39 and 40 and amended claims 18-20, 22-24, 26-28, 30, 34, 38, 42 and 43 are in this application. Claims 21, 25, 29, 33, 37 and 41 have been canceled herein.

At paragraph 4 of the outstanding Office Action of May 19, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 18-43 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most neatly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Further, claims 18-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claims the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the claims are either not adequately disclosed or are misdescriptive of what is disclosed and therefore indefinite. Claims 21, 25, 29, 33, 37 and 41 have been canceled herein. Claims 18-24, 26-28, 30, 33, 34, 38, 42 and 43 have been amended herein to clearly and distinctly describe the recording apparatus.

Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 18-43 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph and second paragraph be withdrawn.

At paragraph 5 of the outstanding Office Action of May 19, 2003, the Examiner rejected claim 43 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the claim is incomplete, and thus indefinite because none of the steps refer to "storing." Applicant submits that claim 43 has been canceled herein. Applicant therefore requests that the rejection to claim 43 be withdrawn as moot. Cancellation of claim 43 should not be construed as an agreement by applicant with the Examiner's arguments. Applicant reserves the right to continue prosecution of this rejected claim in a continuation application.

At paragraph 8 of the outstanding Office Action of May 19, 2003, the Examiner rejected claim 43 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Adachi et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

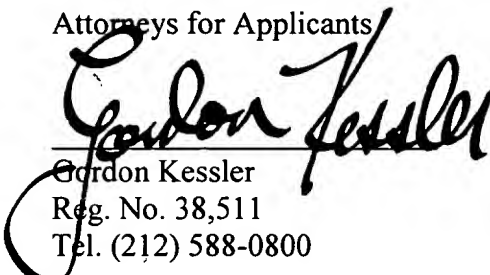
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It is to be appreciated that the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art represent the present opinions of the Applicant's undersigned attorney and, in the event, that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where, in the reference, there is the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith  
to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,  
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